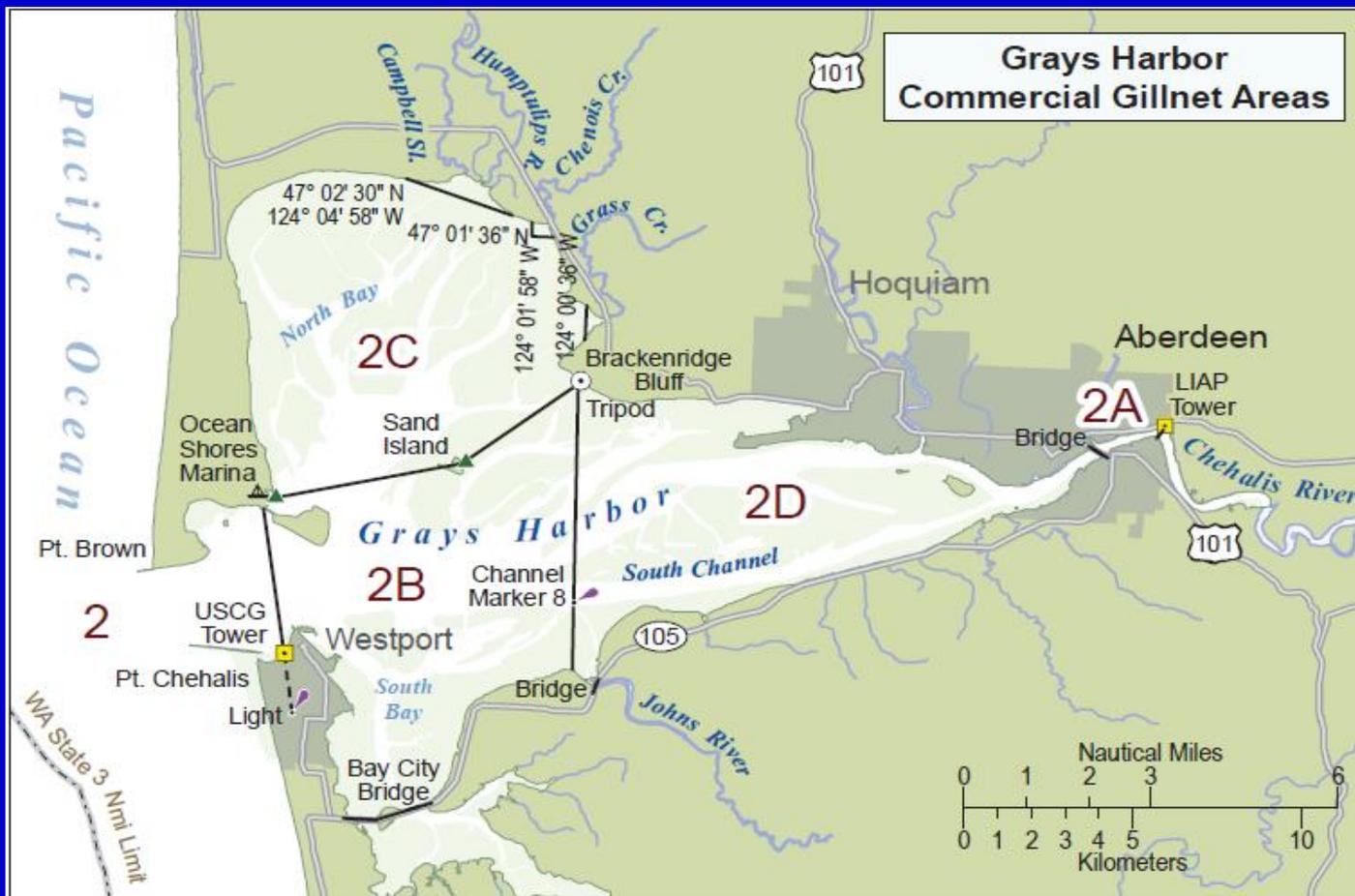




Grays Harbor Basin Salmon Management Policy 2017 Season Review



**Mike Scharpf/ Dr. Annette Hoffmann - Fish Program
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
February, 2018**

Purpose

- **Brief Commission on implementation of Grays Harbor Basin Salmon Management Policy.**

Presentation Outline

- **Review of key Policy elements.**
- **Review 2017 Planning.**
- **Report on 2017 Actual.**
- **2018 Implementation.**

Key Policy Elements

- **Enhance Conservation Focus.**
- **Reduce Gear Conflict/provide fish passage windows.**
- **Guidance for Sharing of Impacts.**

Enhance Conservation Focus

- **Advance conservation and restoration of wild salmon.**
- **Limit the impacts of WDFW-managed fisheries to a maximum of 5% of the adult return if:**
 - **natural origin forecasts are less than 10% over goal.**
 - **spawning goals for natural origin salmon are not met in three out of the previous five years.**

Reduce Gear Conflict

- **Structure seasons, when possible, so that sport anglers have at least three consecutive days of fishing per week with no commercial fisheries in progress. This is known as the 4/3 principle, principle #8**

Sharing of Impacts

Fishery management objectives, in priority order, are:

- 1) Achieve spawner goals.**
- 2) Provide meaningful recreational fishing opportunities for Chinook.**
- 3) Limit commercial fishery impacts to the incidental harvest of fall Chinook during fisheries directed at other species.**

Sharing of Impacts in 2017

Maintain WDFW-managed commercial fisheries for Coho and Chum salmon, but limit incidental Chinook impacts:

- **5.4% - Humpstulips fall Chinook Area 2C.**
- **0.8% - Chehalis fall Chinook Area 2A/B/D.**
- **Rates may increase at high run size.**
- **Sport sharing, Marine Area 2-2 and freshwater fisheries.**

Review of 2017 Planning

- **Constraining stocks:**
 - **Humptulips River natural-origin Coho below spawner goal – 5% impact limit.**
 - **Chehalis River natural-origin Chinook below goal 3 of 5 years – 5% impact limit.**
- **Humptulips Chinook, Chehalis Coho, and Grays Harbor Chum were forecasted at more than 10% over goal.**
- **Crafted fisheries to comply with key policy elements.**

Review of 2017 Planning

- **Developed fisheries to target Humpulips Chinook, Chehalis Coho, and Chum.**
- **Schedule WDFW-commercial fisheries on abundant Coho and Chum.**
- **Stability with fisheries.**
 - **4/3 principle difficult at times.**

2017 Preliminary Chinook Performance

Spring Chinook

Metric	Objective	Pre-Season	Preliminary
Run-Size		1,277	1,390
Spawners	1,400		1,384

- **There were no directed WDFW managed fisheries on spring Chinook in 2017.**
- **Did not achieve conservation objective.**

2017 Preliminary Chinook Performance

Chehalis Natural Fall

Metric	Objective	Pre-Season	Preliminary
Run-Size Natural Origin		10,351	9,643
Natural Spawners	9,753	8,541	9,509
NT Commercial HR	0.8%	0.35%	0.74%
WDFW-Managed Fisheries	5%	4.47%	4.31%

Humtulpips Natural Fall

Run-Size Natural Origin		5,841	5,227
Natural Spawners	3,573	4,580	3,960
NT Commercial HR	5.4%	3.52%	0.3%

2017 Preliminary Coho Performance

- **Challenge to assess at this time.**
- **Coho are still spawning and estimates are not completed.**
- **Achieved conservation goals in 2016 for Chehalis River natural spawning Coho.**
- **Did not achieve Humptulips River Coho goal in 2016.**

* Preliminary data subject to change

2017 Preliminary Chum Performance

Grays Harbor Chum

Metric	Objective	Pre-Season	Preliminary
Run-Size		31,300	27,871
Spawners	21,000	17,444	18,627
NT Commercial HR		13.42%	13.3%
NT Commercial harvest		4,201	3,735

2017 Actual Performance

WDFW-Managed Commercial Catch/Impacts

Species	Pre-season		Actual	
	NOR	HOR	NOR	HOR
Chinook	300	104	85	17
Coho	1,341	865	966	214
Chum	4,201		3,735	

2017 Actual Performance

WDFW-Managed Commercial Ex-vessel Value Policy long term projection \$74,042

Year	Predicted	Actual
2014	\$56,684	\$107,126
2015	\$121,386	\$43,212
2016	\$62,556	\$13,608
2017	\$66,190	\$66,347

Other Policy Components

- **Chum escapement methodology:**
 - **Continued project to evaluate methodology.**
 - **Involved the Chehalis and Quinault Tribes with data collection.**
- **Wynoochee Mitigation Plan:**
 - **Communication and discussion with QIN and Tacoma Power are on-going.**
 - **A plan was developed and shared with QIN for comments.**

2018 Implementation

- **2018 may be another difficult season.**
- **Constraining Stocks:**
 - **Chehalis River natural-origin Chinook.**
 - **Humptulips River natural-origin Coho below goal.**
 - **Grays Harbor Control Zone may be closed if final escapement estimate for Chehalis River NOR Chinook is less than the conservation objective.**